

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office and Office of Community and Rural Affairs
designate Decatur County as a Broadband Ready Community**

INDIANAPOLIS (April 27, 2023) – Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) announced Decatur County as the state’s 76th Broadband Ready Community.

“Communities like Decatur County becoming broadband ready encourage and enhance increased accessibility to connectivity,” said Crouch. “Decatur County has taken a critical step in investing in and prioritizing quality-of-life through broadband expansion. Congratulations to the local leaders and residents throughout Decatur County!”

The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana. The Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment.

“With this designation, we hope it shows providers that Decatur County will work with them to help build our broadband infrastructure, something that’s incredibly important for everyone in our community. Our hopes are also that this shows potential grant funders that we are prepared to partner on broadband projects,” says the Decatur County Commissioner, Mark Koors.

The certification was approved by IBO and OCRA following the county’s adoption of a Broadband Ready Community ordinance.

“We’re happy to get the Broadband ordinance passed with the support of the County elected officials. This is a key step on the path toward improving the existing networks and extending them to cover our County. It makes us more competitive in the eyes of the providers, and we look forward to working with them to build out the community,” says Head of the Decatur County Broadband Task Force, Rick Nobbe.

Deputy Director at the Indiana Broadband Office, Earnie Holtrey, congratulates Decatur County’s certification as the 76th Broadband Ready Community.

“Congratulations to Decatur County for setting your community and our state up for success by furthering critical broadband access,” said Holtrey. “We look forward to your continued progress with your new designation.”

Via 2020 legislation, the Broadband Ready Community Program was transitioned from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to the Office of Community and Rural (OCRA). IBO began the day to Affairs Program on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit day management of the Broadband Ready Community in.gov/indianabroadband.

“OCRA is continuously expanding access to reliable, high-speed broadband service through grants, line extensions and subsidies. Broadband ready communities are imperative to this project as it forges ahead and increases the quality of life across the state,” says OCRA Executive Director Under the leadership of Denny Spinner.

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Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch who also serves as the Secretary of Rural Development, the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) mission is to assist residents in need of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. This mission of reaching Hoosiers where they live, work and play is accomplished by communicating with stakeholders, providing resources to a diverse audience, and leveraging established relationships with elected officials, associations, and providers. For more information, visit in.gov/broadband.